Sometimes you just have to improvise. We received such a strong response to our call for manuscripts on food system planning that we decided to squeeze a group of excellent additional papers on the topic into this winter issue. Starting out the issue, however, are a number of exceptional open-call papers. We begin with Assessing the Growth Potential and Economic Impact of the U.S. Maple Syrup Industry, by Michael Farrell and Brian Chabot. In honor of one of North America’s unique seasonal foodways, this paper will remain open access (freely accessible even without a subscription) through April 2012. Click here to access it for FREE.


Our international contributions include papers from Brazil, Europe, and Canada. In Is a Geographical Certification a Promising Production and Commercialization Strategy for Smallholder Sheep Farming in Ceará, Brazil? Sarah Schneider, Marianna Siegmund-Schultze, Evandro Holanda Júnior, Francisco Alves, and Anne Valle Zárate studied the feasibility of using a geographic indication for a specialty dried mutton product. Paul Swagemakers, M. Dolores Domínguez García, Xavier Simón Fernández, and Johannes Wiskerke provide a case comparison of two European farms’ agro-ecological practices in in Unfolding Farm Practices: Working Toward Sustainable Food Production in the Netherlands and Spain. Rounding out our international papers is the second installment of Could Toronto Provide 10% of its Fresh Vegetable Requirements from Within its Own...
Boundaries? subtitled Part II, Policy Supports and Program Design by Rod MacRae, Joe Nasr, James Kuhns, Lauren Baker, Russ Christianson, Martin Danyluk, Abra Snider, Eric Gallant, Penny Kaill-Vinish, Marc Michalak, Janet Oswald, Sima Patel, and Gerda Wekerle.

The food system planning papers in this issue include Peleg Kremer and Yda Schreuder’s The Feasibility of Regional Food Systems in Metropolitan Areas: An Investigation of Philadelphia’s Foodshed, in which they provide an exhaustive look at three foodshed scenarios for the City of Brotherly Love. This issue’s cover image comes from their paper. In Welcoming Animals Back to the City: Navigating the Tensions of Urban Livestock Through Municipal Ordinances, William Butler offers an analysis of municipal codes which regulate livestock production in 22 U.S. communities. Alison Meadow looks at local food accessibility (including local versus conventional food prices) in Assessing Access to Local Food System Initiatives in Fairbanks, Alaska. We offer two papers on agriculture greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation strategies for communities by Tara Moreau, Jennie Moore, and Kent Mullinix entitled (1) Mitigating Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Emissions: A Review of Scientific Information for Food System Planning, and (2) Planning for Climate Action in British Columbia, Canada: Putting Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Mitigation on Local Government Agendas.

Finally, our columnists look at challenges to food systems here and abroad. Ken Meter looks to “America’s game” for inspiration on how we can increase farm numbers in the U.S., while Rami Zurayk looks at food insecurity as a basis for the Arab Spring.